

# FIR

**FIR** *n. f.* See **FENNEL**, of which plant it is a species.

**FIRPLE** *n. f.* [from *fibula*, Latin.] A stopper.

You must know, that in recorders, which go with a gentle breath, the concave of the pipe, were it not for the *firple* that straiteneth the air, much more than the simple concave, would yield no found. *Bacon's Natural History.*

**FIR** *n. f.* [*fyr*, Welsh; *furh*, Saxon; *fyr*, Danish.] The tree of which deal-boards are made.

It is ever green: the leaves are single, and for the most part produced on every side of the branches: the male flowers, or catkins, are placed at remote distances from the fruit on the same tree. The seeds are propagated on cones, which are squamose. See **PINE-TREE**.

He covered the floor of the house with planks of *fir*. *1 Kings.*

The *fir* and the stately box adorn. *Pope.*

**FIRE** *n. f.* [*fy*, Saxon; *feur*, German.]

1. The igneous element.
2. Any thing burning.

A little *fire* is quickly trodden out, Which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench. *Shakef. H. VI.*

Where two raging *fires* meet together, They do consume the thing that feeds their fury. *Shakef.*

So contraries on Etna's top conspire; Here hoary frosts, and by them breaks out *fire*. *Cowley.*

- 3. A conflagration of towns or countries.

There is another liberality to the citizens, who had suffered damage by a great *fire*. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

Though safe thou think'st thy treasure lies, Conceal'd in chests from human eyes, A *fire* may come, and it may be Bury'd, my friend, as far from thee. *Granville.*

- 4. Flame; light; lustre.

Stars, hide your *fires*! Let not night see my black and deep desires! *Shakef. Macb.*

- 5. Torture by burning.

Did Shadrach's zeal my glowing breast inspire, To weary tortures, and rejoice in *fire*? *Prior.*

- 6. The punishment of the damned.

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring *fire*? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? *Isa. xxxiii.*

- 7. Any thing provoking; any thing that inflames the passions.

What *fire* is in my ears? Can this be true? Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much? *Shakef.*

- 8. Ardour of temper; violence of passion.

He had *fire* in his temper, and a German bluntness; and, upon provocations, might strain a phrase. *Atterbury.*

- 9. Liveliness of imagination; vigour of fancy; intellectual activity; force of expression; spirit of sentiment.

Nor can the snow that age does shed Upon thy rev'rend head, Quench or allay the noble *fire* within, But all that youth can be thou art. *Cowley.*

They have no notion of life and *fire* in fancy and in words, and any thing that is just in grammar and in measure is good oratory and poetry to them. *Felton on the Classics.*

He brings The reasoner's weapons and the poet's *fire*. *Blackmore.*

Exact Racine, and Corneille's noble *fire*, Taught us that France had something to admire. *Pope.*

The bold Longinus all the nine inspire, And warm the critic with a poet's *fire*. *Pope.*

Oh may some spark of your celestial *fire*, The last, the meanest of your sons inspire. *Pope.*

- 10. The passion of love.

Love various hearts does variously inspire, It stirs in gentle bosoms gentle *fire*, Like that of incense on the altar laid; But raging flames tempestuous souls invade; A *fire* which every windy passion blows, With pride it mounts, and with revenge it glows. *Dryden.*

The *fire* of love in youthful blood, Like what is kindled in brush-wood, But for a moment burns. *Shadwell.*

The god of love retires; Dim are his torches, and extinct his *fires*. *Pope.*

New charms shall still increase desire, And time's swift wing shall fan the *fire*. *Moore's Fables.*

- 11. Eruptions or imposthumations: as, St. Anthony's *fire*.

Hermofilla courageously set upon the horsemen, and set *fire* also upon the stables where the Turks horses stood. *Knolles.*

He that set a *fire* on a plane-tree to spite his neighbour, and the plane-tree set on his neighbour's house, is bound to pay all the loss, because it did all rise from his own ill intention. *Taylor's Rule of living holy.*

**FIREARMS** *n. f.* [*fire* and *arms*.] Arms which owe their efficacy to *fire*; guns.

Nor had they ammunition to supply their few *firearms*: horses they had, and officers they had, which made all their show. *Clarendon, b. ii.*

Before the use of *firearms* there was infinitely more scope for personal valour than in the modern battles. *Pope.*

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**FIREBALL** *n. f.* [*fire* and *ball*.] Grenado; ball filled with combustibles, and bursting where it is thrown.

Judge of those insolent boasts of confidence, which, like so many *fireballs*, or mouth grenadoes, are thrown at our church. *South's Sermons.*

The same great man hath sworn to make us swallow his coin in *fireballs*. *Swift.*

**FIREBRUSH** *n. f.* [*fire* and *brush*.] The brush which hangs by the fire to sweep the hearth.

When you are ordered to stir up the fire, clean away the ashes from betwixt the bars with the *firebrush*. *Swift.*

**FIREBRAKE** *n. f.* [*fire* and *brake*.] A fiery serpent: I suppose the prester.

By the hissing of the snake, The rustling of the *firebrake*, I charge thee thou this place forsake, Nor of queen Mab be prattling. *Dryden's Nymphs.*

**FIRENEW** *adj.* [*fire* and *new*.] New from the forge; new from the melting-house.

Armado is a most illustrious wight, A man of *firenew* words, fashion's own knight. *Shakef.*

Some excellent jests, *firenew* from the mint. *Shakef.*

Upon the wedding-day I put myself, according to custom, in another suit *firenew*, with silver buttons to it. *Addis. Guard.*

**FIREPAN** *n. f.* [*fire* and *pan*.] Vessel of metal to carry fire.

His *firepan*, and all the vessels thereof, thou shalt make of brass. *Ex. xxvii. 3.*

Pour of it upon a *firepan* well heated, as they do rose-water and vinegar. *Bacon's Natural History.*

**FIRER** *n. f.* [from *fire*.] An incendiary.

Others burned Moussel, and the rest marched as a guard for defence of these *firers*. *Caveau's Survey of Cornwall.*

**FIRESEDE** *n. f.* [*fire* and *side*.] The hearth; the chimney; the focus.

My judgment is, that they ought all to be despised, and ought to serve but for Winter talk by the *fireside*. *Bacon.*

By his *fireside* he starts the hare, And turns her in his wicker chair: His feet, however lame, you find, Have got the better of his mind.

What art thou asking of them, after all? Only to sit quietly at thy own *fireside*. *Arbutnot's Hist. of John Bull.*

**FIRESTICK** *n. f.* [*fire* and *stick*.] A lighted stick or brand.

Children, when they play with *firesticks*, move and whirl them round so fast, that the motion will cozen their eyes, and represent an intire circle of fire to them. *Digby on Bodies.*

**FIREWORK** *n. f.* [*fire* and *work*.] Shows of fire; pyrotechnical performances.

The king would have me present the princes with some delightful ostentation, or pageant, or antick, or *firework*. *Shak.*

We represent also ordnance, and new mixtures of gunpowder, wildfires burning in water and unquenchable; and also *fireworks* of all variety. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*

The ancients were imperfect in the doctrine of meteors, by their ignorance of gunpowder and *fireworks*. *Brown.*

In *fireworks* give him leave to vent his spite; Those are the only serpents he can write. *Dryden.*

Our companion proposed a subject for a *firework*, which he thought would be very amusing. *Addis. Guardian.*

Their *fireworks* are made up in paper. *Tatler, N° 88.*

**TO FIRE** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

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**FIRECROSS** *n. f.* [*fire* and *cross*.] A token in Scotland for the nation to take arms: the ends thereof burnt black, and in some parts smeared with blood. It is carried like lightning from one place to another. Upon refusal to send it forward, or to rise, the last person who has it shoots the other dead.

He sent his heralds through all parts of the realm, and commanded the *firecross* to be carried; namely, two firebrands set in fashion of a cross, and pitched upon the point of a spear. *Haywood.*

**FIRELOCK** *n. f.* [*fire* and *lock*.] A soldier's gun; a gun discharged by striking steel with flint.

Prime all your *firelocks*, fallen well the stake. *Gay.*

**FIREMAN** *n. f.* [*fire* and *man*.]

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# FIR

Nor hopes nor fears can blind. *Walsh.*

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